

REMARKS

I. Cross-reference to related applications

The Applicant wishes to call the Examiner's attention to allowed U.S. Serial No. 09/744,779, filed January 26, 2001 (case no. 01-055).

II. Status of the claims

Claims 1-28 were replaced with new claims 29-57 to further clarify the Applicant's invention. The present amendment of the claims is supported by the application as originally filed. For instance, support for new claim 29 can be found in old claim 1, page 10, lines 3-5 and page 11, lines 4-8, and Figures 3A and 4; new claim 30 support can be found at page 5, lines 11-14; new claim 31 support can be found at page 4, line 1 to page 5, line 2; page 9, lines 18 to page 10, line 18 and old claim 21 and Figure 5; new claim 32 support can be found at page 8, line 10-page 9, lines 10; page 10, lines 3-8 and Figures 3A and 4; new claim 33 support can be found at page 2, line 4-11; page 7, line 10-16, old claim 1 and Figure 1; new claim 34 support can be found at page 2, line 18-20; new claim 35 support can be found at page 2, line 12-15 and old claim 1; new claim 36 support can be found at page 2, lines 12-15 and old Claim 3; new claim 37 support can be found at page 2, lines 12-15 and old claim 4; new claim 38 support can be found at page 2, line 16-17 and old claim 1; new claim 39 support can be found at page 2, lines 18-20; new claim 40 support can be found at page 2, lines 18-20; new claim 41 support can be found at page 7, lines 14-16 and old claim 2; new claim 42 support can be found at page 3, lines 12-13 and 21-24; page 7, lines 17-20 and old claim 5; new claim 43 support can be found at old claim 9; new claim 44 support can be found at page 1, lines 23-25 and old claims 10 and 13; new claim 45 support can be found at page 8, lines 7-9 and 23-25 and old claims 11 and 12; new claim 46 support can be found at page 1, line 25 to page 2, line 3 and old claims 14 and 15; new claim 47 support can be found at page 3, lines 3-5 and old claims 16 and 17; new claim 48 support can be found at page 5, lines 3-5 and old claim 18; new claim 49 support can be found at page 5, lines 3-5 and old claim 19; new claim 50 support can be found at page 5, line 7-8 and old claim 20; new claim 51 support can be found at P 4, line 1 to page 5, line 2; page 9,

lines 18 to page 10, line 18, old claim 22, and Figure 5; new claim 52 support can be found at page 4, lines 9-10 and old claim 24; new claim 53 support can be found at page 4, lines 9-10 and old claim 23; new claim 54 support can be found at page 4, line 1 to page 5, line 2; page 9, lines 18 to page 10, line 18, old claim 25 and Figure 5; new claim 55 support can be found at P 4, line 1 to page 5, line 2; page 9, lines 18 to page 10, line 18, old claim 26 and Figure 5; new claim 56 support can be found at page 4, line 1 to page 5, line 2; page 9, lines 18 to page 10, line 18, and old claims 16 and 17; and new claim 57 support can be found at page 8, lines 1-4 and Figure 1H. Accordingly, no new matter has been added to the application as a result of the present amendment.

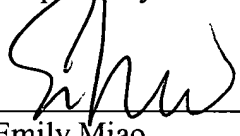
III. Restriction requirement

Original claims 1-28 were subject to a restriction requirement. The Applicants provisionally elect, without traverse, species 3 corresponding to Figures 3A and 3B. Claims 1-28 were cancelled and replaced with new claims 29-57. The Applicants believe that the elected invention, embraced by new claims 29-57, is directed to species 3. This election is made without prejudice to or disclaimer of the other claims or inventions disclosed.

Prompt consideration and entry of this response is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' undersigned representative.

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Respectfully submitted,



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